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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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[redacted]

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SUBJECT Test Results on Samples of Forte Photographic Paper and Roll Film

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1. In September 1953, [redacted] completed tests on some samples of photographic paper and film which were manufactured by Forte Photochemical Industry, in Vac, Hungary. The following results are shown as a comparison with high quality competing products of Western European manufacture.

2. Forte "Fortezo" Warm Tone Enlarging Paper: samples of both Soft and Medium Silky-Grain White Double Weight /DW/ grades were tested.

   a) Contrast: The Soft Silky Grain White DW was considerably lower in contrast than the high grade silk-finish competing paper with which it was compared. The Medium sample, however, was not significantly different from its competing equivalent.

   b) Speed: The Soft Fortezo sample required about 2½ times the exposure of the competing paper, while the Medium sample was fairly similar in speed to its competitor.

   c) Image color: Both Fortezo samples had a much colder image color than the competing products.

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d) Base and surface details: The surface tint of both Fortezo samples appeared ivory-white when compared with the white of the Western European papers. The surface texture of the two Fortezo papers appeared similar, and neither sample fluoresced under ultra violet light. The Forte papers were 2½-7% thicker than the Western European products.

3. Forte Bromofort Bromide Paper: Samples of Medium Glossy White DW and Medium Silky Grain White DW were tested.

a) Contrast: No significant comment.

b) Speed: The Bromofort Medium Glossy paper was comparable in speed to the Western European competing paper with which it was compared, but Bromofort Medium Silky Grain paper required about 75% more exposure than the Western European product.

c) Image color and surface tint: The image color of the Bromofort papers appeared warmer than that of the corresponding high grade Western European papers, but this impression is influenced by the surface tint of the Bromofort papers, which is an ivory-white and does not fluoresce in ultra violet light.

d) Base and surface details: Bromofort papers were similar in thickness and texture to the Western European papers.

4. Forte Panchrofort 19°/10 DIN Roll Film: The sample of this film was sent in from Bombay, where it is marketed by the Hungarian firm of Chemolimpex. This film was tested under sensitometric conditions and compared with a high quality Western European medium speed, medium fine grain panchromatic roll film, with the following results:

a) The Panchrofort film had about three-quarters of the speed of its competitor, and was higher in contrast and fog.

b) With development times adjusted to give a gamma of about 0.80 on both films, Panchrofort needed about two-thirds the development time, and gave barely half the speed of the other film.

c) The two films appeared to be similar with respect to graininess.

d) The Panchrofort film had an emerald green gelatin backing which discolored quite readily in the three developers in which it was tested.

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